Microprocessor development cartridge plugs into Commodore 64

A microprocessor development cartridge specially designed for the 64K memory of the Commodore 64 microcomputer has been announced by Gloucester Computer, Inc. The Promqueen/64 is a more sophisticated version of the company's Promqueen cartridge for the Commodore VIC-20 microcomputer. Like the Promqueen, it is designed to support development of EPROM-resident machine language programs.

The Promqueen/64 features editing software called Autohex/64 and uses the Commodore 64 microcomputer for keyboard input and CRT display. According to Gloucester, its system allows EPROM chips containing fully developed programs to be made for any 8-bit microcomputer. Applications range from industrial process control to computer-controlled toys, says the company.

The Promqueen/64 includes a 28-pin Text tool zero-insertion-force socket, a 24K RAM workspace, a matrix-switch EPROM selector that accommodates all five-volt JEDEC pinout devices, and RS-232 communications software for code uploads and downloads. It also provides a faster burn process with a special erase check and allows use of faulty EPROMs and recharging of previously programmed devices. All other capabilities of the original Promqueen programmer—with the exception of the mimick mode—have been retained.

Eight-bit microcomputer chip includes EEPROM and A/D

According to Motorola, its MC68HC11 combines the low power characteristics and high noise immunity of CMOS with the high-speed operation of HMOS. The eight-bit device's fully static design allows operation at frequencies down to dc, says the company.

The MC68HC11's instruction set is compatible with other members of the MC6801 family and its CPU is designed to achieve a 2-MHz nominal bus rate. The chip incorporates 4K bytes of ROM, 512 bytes of EEPROM, and 256 bytes of RAM. All 256 bytes of RAM are saved during standby. A 16-bit timer system includes a four-stage programmable prescaler and three input capture and five output compare functions. Serial interfacing capabilities of the device consist of an enhanced NRZ system plus a serial peripheral interface system.

The MC68HC11 also includes an eight-channel A/D converter, an eight-bit pulse accumulator circuit, a real-time interrupt circuit, and a computer-operating-properly watchdog system. The MC68HC11 will be offered in two packages—a 52-pin quad surface-mount plastic package and a 48-pin standard ceramic DIP (with four A/D channels not bonded).

The device will be sampled early in 1984; the price will be $19 in quantities of 1000.

Z8003 evaluation module is IEEE 796, SAM-bus compatible

The SAM-Z8003 EVM is a Z8003 evaluation module with virtual memory capability. The Multibus product, which is manufactured by SGS Semicondor, includes the Z8003 CPU virtual memory processor unit (VMPU) and the Z8015 paging memory management unit (PMMU).

According to SGS, a resident monitor program and control unit permit the control, inspection, and alteration of on-board and off-board resources, including memory, input/output ports, VMPU and PMMU registers, breakpoint set and clear, run and single-step program execution, and time and date. Compatibility with the IEEE 796 Multibus (P1) and the SGS SAM-bus (P2) allows interfacing with other SGS modules and with other boards available on the market, says SGS.

The evaluation module, including board, control unit, monitor program, and two RS-232C connectors, is priced at $2500.

Reader Service Number 14

6809 Single Board Computer

6809 MPU, 2 serial ports, 4 parallel ports, RAM, EPROM, realtime clock, watchdog timer, 44-pin 4.5 × 6.5 PCB


Reader Service Number 12

Reader Service Number 1